

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2762

To establish SHARE Net grants to support the development of a comprehensive, accessible, high-technology infrastructure of educational and cultural resources for non-profit institutions, individuals, and others for educational purposes through a systematic effort to coordinate, link, and enhance, through technology, existing specialized resources and expertise in public and private cultural and educational institutions.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2000

Mr. DODD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish SHARE Net grants to support the development of a comprehensive, accessible, high-technology infrastructure of educational and cultural resources for non-profit institutions, individuals, and others for educational purposes through a systematic effort to coordinate, link, and enhance, through technology, existing specialized resources and expertise in public and private cultural and educational institutions.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Saving Humanities,  
3 Arts, and Resources for Education Networking Act of  
4 2000” (SHARE Net Act).

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
7 ings:

8           (1) The Morrill Acts enacted in 1862 and 1890  
9       brought about a significant change in the system of  
10       education in the United States by providing for the  
11       sale of public lands in the West and the dedication  
12       of the proceeds of those sales to funding the estab-  
13       lishment of practical, accessible land grant colleges  
14       and universities in States across the Nation.

15          (2) The land grant colleges and universities  
16       have a focus on research, teaching, and outreach,  
17       and continue to this day to be leaders in higher edu-  
18       cation by providing affordable access to high-quality  
19       postsecondary education.

20          (3) The land grant colleges and universities also  
21       have emerged as one of the greatest sources of ad-  
22       vanced research that leverages the United States  
23       economy and powers the United States global com-  
24       petitiveness.

25          (4) The land grant colleges and universities, in  
26       conjunction with the Cooperative State Research,

1 Education, and Extension Service, serve to dissemi-  
2 nate information learned from research and link re-  
3 search activities to larger societal needs.

4 (5) The potential of advanced Internet, digital  
5 spectrum, and other telecommunications technologies  
6 to increase the quality and reach of educational re-  
7 sources has barely been tapped.

8 (6) Numerous local and regional educational  
9 and community organizations are repositories of  
10 knowledge, information, and educational resources  
11 and programs that, in terms of accessibility to the  
12 potential beneficiaries, are fragmented and uncoordi-  
13 nated.

14 (7) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and  
15 the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established a  
16 framework for the transition from analog to digital  
17 television and for the auction of publicly-owned ana-  
18 log spectrum.

19 (8) The auction of the analog spectrum is ex-  
20 pected to yield over \$6,000,000,000 in revenues for  
21 the Treasury of the United States.

22 (9) The analog spectrum, as a valuable, pub-  
23 licly-owned asset, is today's equivalent of the public  
24 lands of the western frontier of a century ago.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
 2 gress that, following the principle of the Morrill Acts that  
 3 public assets be used for broadening public education, the  
 4 resources available through the auction of the analog spec-  
 5 trum should be tapped to fund the development of a new  
 6 educational and cultural infrastructure that utilizes to-  
 7 day’s technologies to expand the reach and impact of exist-  
 8 ing high-quality community educational resources.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education  
 12 may carry out a grant program to support efforts to  
 13 achieve the goal set forth in subsection (b).

14 (2) DESIGNATION.—A grant awarded under  
 15 this section shall be known as a “SHARE Net  
 16 Grant”.

17 (b) GOAL.—The goal referred to in subsection (a)(1)  
 18 is to develop a comprehensive, accessible, high-tech infra-  
 19 structure of educational and cultural resources for non-  
 20 profit institutions, individuals, and others for educational  
 21 purposes through a systematic effort to coordinate, link,  
 22 and enhance existing specialized resources and expertise  
 23 in public and private cultural and educational institutions.

24 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Under the grant pro-  
 25 gram the Secretary may award a grant to any consortium

1 (hereafter in this section referred to as a “partnership”)  
 2 consisting of not less than 3 organizations from not less  
 3 than 3 of the following categories of organizations:

- 4 (1) Institutions of a higher education.
- 5 (2) Libraries.
- 6 (3) Public radio and television stations.
- 7 (4) Museums.
- 8 (5) Arts and cultural institutions.
- 9 (6) State educational agencies.
- 10 (7) Local educational agencies.
- 11 (8) Public interest, not-for-profit organizations.

12 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

13 (1) MANDATORY.—A partnership awarded a  
 14 grant under this section shall use the grant funds  
 15 for the following purposes:

16 (A) EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GOAL.—To sup-  
 17 port the efforts of the partnership to achieve  
 18 the goal described in subsection (b).

19 (B) SURVEY OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—  
 20 To survey and catalogue the educational re-  
 21 sources of participants in the partnership and  
 22 other institutions in the community to deter-  
 23 mine the breadth, quality, and accessibility of  
 24 the resources.

1 (C) TECHNOLOGICAL LINKAGE.—To link  
 2 the resources of the participants and others to  
 3 each other and to the larger community  
 4 through technology.

5 (D) STRENGTHENING OF RESOURCES.—To  
 6 improve the quality of and develop new edu-  
 7 cational programming to address deficiencies in  
 8 the available resources.

9 (E) INCREASED ACCESS TO RESOURCES.—  
 10 To broaden access to the available resources.

11 (2) PERMISSIVE.—A partnership awarded a  
 12 grant under this section may use the grant funds to  
 13 provide for cooperative programs with educational  
 14 institutions to offer—

15 (A) high-quality professional development  
 16 and training in elementary and secondary edu-  
 17 cation; or

18 (B) courses leading to a postsecondary de-  
 19 gree.

20 (e) APPLICATION FOR GRANT.—Each partnership de-  
 21 siring a grant under this section shall submit an applica-  
 22 tion to the Secretary of Education in such form and con-  
 23 taining such information as the Secretary may require.  
 24 Each such application shall include the following:

1           (1) SURVEY OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—A de-  
2       scription of how the partnership will survey the edu-  
3       cational resources of the participants in the partner-  
4       ship and others in relation to the goal described in  
5       subsection (b).

6           (2) TECHNOLOGICAL LINKAGE.—A description  
7       of how the partnership will link the resources of the  
8       participants and others to each other and to the  
9       larger community through technology.

10          (3) ENHANCEMENT OF RESOURCES.—A de-  
11       scription of how the efforts of the partnership will  
12       enhance the quality and interactivity of the re-  
13       sources.

14          (4) ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM-  
15       MING.—A description of how the partnership will de-  
16       velop any additional educational programming deter-  
17       mined to be necessary.

18          (5) OUTREACH.—A description of how the part-  
19       nership will reach out to the larger community,  
20       other cultural institutions, elementary schools, sec-  
21       ondary schools, postsecondary educational institu-  
22       tions, and the public to recruit their participation  
23       and active involvement in the system developed in  
24       order to coordinate, link, and enhance, through tech-  
25       nology, existing specialized resources and expertise

1 in public and private cultural and educational insti-  
 2 tutions.

3 (f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each partnership  
 4 receiving a grant under this section shall provide matching  
 5 funds, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount  
 6 received under the grant, to support the costs of activities  
 7 assisted under the grant.

8 (g) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
 9 tion the Secretary of Education shall give priority to a  
 10 partnership—

11 (1) that serves a low-income community; or

12 (2) with a membership that is broadly rep-  
 13 resentative of the region or State to be served under  
 14 the grant.

15 (h) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—To the extent prac-  
 16 ticable, the Secretary of Education shall ensure that  
 17 grants under this section are awarded to partnerships  
 18 serving different geographic areas of the United States.

19 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of  
 21 Education to carry out this section \$1,200,000,000 for fis-  
 22 cal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each  
 23 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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